Wheat procurement

1883. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the procurement of wheat during the Rabi Marketing season 2005-06 is estimated to be 180 lakh tonnes against 168 lakh tonnes last year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that wheat production for the ensuing Rabi season is expected to be around 25 million tonnes;

(c) whether Government have finalised arrangements for procurement of Rabi wheat and coarse cereals; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The production of wheat, as per the Second Advance Estimated, during 2004-05 is expected to be 73.03 million tonnes.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. All arrangements for the procurement of wheat and coarse cereals for the Rabi Marketing season 2005-06 have been finalized during the meeting of Food Secretaries of wheat producing States held on 8th February, 2005.

Approval for MRP on packaged goods

1884. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Maximum Retail Price (MRP) printed on the packages and packed consumer goods is by and large very high and costlier;

(b) if so, Government's response thereto;

(c) whether Government are considering to make it mandatory to get the MRP approved by an appropriate agency by safeguarding the interest of consumers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?